

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----029257 060916Z /12
Z 060847Z JUL 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6738
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 05785

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1,2
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR KING HUSSEIN

REF:(A) AMMAN 5748,(B) STATE 169128, (C) STATE 167914

1. AS INDICATED IN THE POINTS DELIVERED TO HIS MAJESTY THROUGH SHARAF ON JUNE 21, WE HAVE BEEN EXAMINING VARIOUS NEXT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE IN THE WAKE OF THE DISAPPOINTING ISRAELI RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK/GAZA. WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT AN IMPASSE NOT NOW DEVELOP. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO SHOW THE ENDURING STRENGTH OF THE U. S. COMMITMENT TO FIND A BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTER IN MOVING ALONG THIS PATH.

2. WE DISCUSSED WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS DURING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S RECENT VISIT TO THE AREA THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING FOREIGN MINISTERS KAMEL AND DAYAN TO LONDON FOR TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY VANCE PRESENT FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT--ON JULY 18 AND 19. PRESIDENT SADAT IS READY TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL TO
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SUCH A MEETING. THE ISRAELIS HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE LONDON TALKS BUT ARE DEFERRING FINAL AGREEMENT UNTIL THEY HAVE RECEIVED AND STUDIED THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL WAS GIVEN TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE BY PRESIDENT SADAT FOR DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND THEN TO THE ISRAELIS. OUR AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV WILL CONVEY THE PROPOSAL TO THE ISRAELIS ON JULY 5. WE WANT HIS

MAJESTY TO KNOW THAT THE STRATEGY WHICH WE HAVE IN MIND INVOLVES CONTINUING ACTIVE U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE EFFORT TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD AND TO SEEK HIS SUPPORT.
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3. HIS MAJESTY KNOWS THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED NO PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF ACTIVE AND ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THE MEETING OF THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE A NEW STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. THE U. S. WANTS TO HELP THE PARTIES TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THEM IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT, BUT OUR EFFORTS CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE ONLY WHEN PARTIES ARE NEGOTIATING WITH EACH OTHER. AS WE MOVE FORWARD OVER THE WEEKS AHEAD, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF U. S. OPINION, WHERE THE PERCEPTION IS WIDESPREAD THAT THE PRESENT IMPASSE RESULTS AT LEAST IN PART FROM THE FACT THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT WITHDREW HIS DELEGATION FROM THE JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS. FOR THE U. S. TO BE ACTIVE IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON WOULD BE PERCEIVED AS PRE-EMPTING THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES.

4. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE LONDON TALKS IN THEMSELVES TO BRING ANY DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS, BUT THEY COULD BE USEFUL
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IN PROBING POSITIONS AND PROPOSALS OF BOTH SIDES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING AN ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST BANK/GAZA QUESTION, AND IN PREPARING THE GROUND FOR WHAT WE SEE AS A CONTINUING PROCESS WHICH COULD INCLUDE A SUBSEQUENT VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO THE AREA AND CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES ABOUT U. S. IDEAS WHICH COULD HELP BRIDGE GAPS. THE SECRETARY WOULD OF COURSE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY ON ANY SUCH TRIP FOR PERSONAL TALKS WITH HIS MAJESTY.

5. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT HIS MAJESTY AND OTHER JORDANIAN LEADERS HAVE EXERCISED RESTRAINT IN THEIR COMMENTS ON PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS, DESPITE THEIR RESERVATIONS. WE ALSO NOTE THE POINT HIS MAJESTY MADE TO US THROUGH SHARAF ON JUNE 21 THAT JORDAN MUST ACT IN ITS BEST INTEREST. AT THE SAME TIME, WE CONSIDER IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT JORDAN, AS A LEADER OF THE MODERATE FORCES IN THE ARAB WORLD, LEND WHATEVER SUPPORT IT CAN, WITH OTHER MODERATE LEADERS, TO THE EFFORT NOW BEING MADE IN LONDON TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THEREBY TO GIVE US A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT THE MORE ACTIVE U. S. ROLE WHICH WE ENVISAGE AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR STRATEGY.

6. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND
OTHER MODERATE STATES IN THE AREA NOT JOIN THEIR VOICES WITH
THOSE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO WILL MOVE TO CRITICIZE SADAT
OR EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE LONDON TALKS. PUBLIC
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OBJECTION TO THE TALKS AND PUBLIC CRITICISM OF EGYPT AND

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 AMMAN 05785

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS
SADAT WOULD IN TURN UNDERMINE VOICES O REASON AND
MODERATION ELSEWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND THUS THE
TRADITIONAL POSITION OF JORDAN AND OTHER MODERATE STATES
WHICH HAVE ALWAYS STOOD ON THE SIDE OF EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
A JUST AND NEGOTIATED PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
PICKERING

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